Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Original)** An arrangement (1) for protecting against overload of an electric motor (2), in particular of an electrically driven fan blower for a vehicle, having at least one changeover element (6) for controlling, in a speed-dependent manner, two series-connected electric motors (2), in which a switch element (14) in the form of a normally open contact (12) is connected in parallel with the electric motor (2) and, in the event of excessive temperatures, causes the relevant electric motor (2) to be short-circuited.

2. **(Original)** The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, in which each electric motor (2) has an associated switch element (14), which are tripped independently of one another.

3. **(Currently amended)** The arrangement as claimed in claim 1 **[[**or 2**]]**, in which the switch element (14) is in the form of a thermal circuit breaker, in particular in the form of a bimetallic strip.

4. **(Currently amended)** The arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, in which the switch element (14) is integrated in the electric motor (2).

5. **(Currently amended)** The arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, in which the switch element (14) is arranged on the mounting side of a brush plate (16) of the electric motor (2) connected in parallel with the electric motor (2).

6. **(Currently amended)** The arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, in which the switch element (14) is designed such that it is tripped at a temperature (θ) above a specified motor operating temperature.

7. **(Currently amended)** The arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, in which a fuse element (8) is provided for disconnecting a circuit (4) supplying the electric motor (2) when a predeterminable, critical limit value is exceeded.

8. **(Currently amended)** The arrangement as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, in which an interference suppression capacitor (22) is connected in parallel with the switch element (14).

9. **(Original)** A method for protecting against overload of an electric motor (2), in particular of an electrically driven fan blower for a vehicle, two series-connected electric motors (2) being controlled, in a speed-dependent manner, by means of at least one changeover element (6), in which the electric motor (2) is short-circuited by means of a switch element (14) in the form of a normally open contact (12) which is connected in parallel with the electric motor (2).

10. **(Original)** The method as claimed in claim 9, in which the internal resistance (Ri) of the electric motor (2) is reduced such that a current increase resulting therefrom exceeds a predeterminable limit value.